Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh through Bangladesh Railways for restoration of Rail link between Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh)-B.G. for goods trains services.

(d) Commercial notification has been issued by Railways for operationalising this route. Freight trains will run between Petrapole-Benapole as and when indents are received.

Regularising of Contract Employees in RITES

1537. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) has absorbed/regularised the services of contract employees, both technical and non-technical;

(b) if so, how many such contract employees have been regularised/absorbed in RITES as on 3.6.2000;

(c) what procedure/criteria was adopted in regularizing their services; and

(d) whether these contract employees were subjected to written tests/interviews also and if so, the complete details of providing regular appointment to these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last ten years, 267 contract employees had been regularised.

(c) and (d) The regular appointments to the contract employees are offered on completion of the prescribed length of service and based on special performance appraisal and performance in the interview before the duly constituted Selection Committee.

Decline in Performance of Trains

1538. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'on time' performance of trains of Indian Railways is declining;